Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 11, 2002 TO MARCH 15, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
New Housing Price Index (1992=100)	January			New house prices in Canada were up 0.3% in January, with the largest month over month increase posted by Ottawa-Gatineau (1.3%). Calgary and Edmonton showed month over month increases of 0.4% and 0.5% respectively. On an annual basis, new house prices are up 2.9% for Canada, while Calgary and Edmonton are up 3.7% and 3.5%.
Canada	107.6	0.3%	2.9%	
Edmonton	116.2	0.5%	3.5%	
Calgary	138.3	0.4%	3.7%	
New Motor Vehicle Sales	January			New motor vehicle sales in Canada maintained the previous month's strong pace in January. On an annual basis, January sales were up 15.8%, as the auto sector continued to be spurred by generous incentives from manufacturers. British Columbia (8.2%) led the provinces in sales gains in January, followed by Alberta (6.2%) and Manitoba (4.8%).
Alberta	17,480	6.2%	18.4%	
Canada	146,288	0.0%	15.8%	
Building Permits ($ millions)	January			The value of building permits in Canada increased 17.4% in January, up 3.2% on an annual basis. The value of non-residential permits rose by 6.8%, while residential permits increased by 24.9%. Alberta's monthly 5.8% increase in building permits reflects a 19.3% increase in the residential sector, which was slightly offset by a decrease of 13.6% in the non-residential sector. Alberta's building permits are up 38.6% from January 2001.
Alberta	568.9	5.8%	38.6%	
Canada	3,821.5	17.4%	3.2%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	February			Urban housing starts fell in February by 13.7% to 159,800 units, while total housing starts in Canada fell by 12.3% to 179,800 units. The largest percentage decreases in housing starts were in Nova Scotia (-37.5%) and Ontario (-21.1%), while the largest percentage increases were posted by Prince Edward Island (100.0%) and Newfoundland (61.5%). Alberta's housing starts decreased 2.1% in February to 28,200, but were up 50.8% from February 2001.
Alberta	28,200	-2.1%	50.8%	
Canada	159,800	-13.7%	16.6%	